to-day is the announcement that President Mc-Kinley has designated the son of Secretary Hay to succeed Mr. Macrum in Pretoria. "The Daily Telegraph" says;

This appointment is a graceful concession on he part of the United States Government to the part of the United States Government to British feeling. Our countrymen's interests will be safe in the hands of the new Consul.

South African news is now six days in rears. The censorship permits few details of the Modder River battle to be transmitted. Some vague statements have been published in the Cape Town papers; according to these the Boers numbered 8,000 men, and were intrenched on both banks of the stream, although mostly on the northern bank. The British, according to these accounts, drove the enemy across the river, compelling them to retreat, and established themselves on both banks. These details, however, are too meagre to enable an accurate idea of the engagement to be formed.

A dispatch has reached London announcing that Lord Methuen is again in the field; and it is also said that Count Gleichen, who was wounded in the fighting at Modder River, was struck by a bullet in the neck.

Serious news comes from the northern sections of Cape Colony. The whole border district between Colesberg and Burghersdorp has declared for the Boers. In Venterstad alone more than two thousand have joined the rebellion. The farmers have formed a commandeering committee and talk confidently of a triumphant march on Cape Town. General Buller's proclamation has been torn down and trampled upon, and the loyalists are bidden to hurry to Cape Town to prepare coffee for the rebels.

The official list shows that a modification has been made in the command of the Sixth Division. Instead of Lieutenant General Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, the commander will be Major General Thomas Kelly-Kenny, Inspector General of Auxiliary Forces and Recruiting, with Major General Knox and Major General Clements as brigade commanders. General Kelly-Kenny has had no South African experience.

According to a dispatch from Putter's Kraal, dated Tuesday, November 28, the Boers were then attempting turning movements from Steynsburg and the district north of Storkstrom in co-operation with the rebels, by way of Mariasburg and Tarkastad, against General Gatacre's column.

The wreck of the troopship Ismore may result in the loss of 350 horses.

TROOPSHIP REACHES THE CAPE.

Cape Town, Nov. 28.-The troopship Bavarian, from Queenstown, November 10, with Colonel Iver Herbert, Assistant Adjutant General for the Home District, and the foreign military attaches, together with the Connaught Rangers, the First Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusileers and a contingent of miscellaneous troops, in all more than two thousand men, arrived here to-day. Colonel Herbert and the military attaches immediately landed, and the Bavarian proceeded with the troops, presumably to Dur-

CARS OF PORK FOR BRITISH WRECKED. RUMOR THAT BOER SYMPATHIZERS CAUSED THE DISASTER NOT CREDITED.

Chicago, Dec. 3 .- A train of fourteen refrigerator cars, containing salt pork intended for the British in South Africa, was wrecked to-day near Kenilworth, Ill., on the Milwaukee division of the

Kenilworth, Ill., on the Milwaukee division of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. The cars were completely demolished, but it is believed the greater part of the pork can be saved. A serious delay in shipment, however, will result.

The wreck is supposed to have been caused by a broken journal. Hints were passed among the crowd of trainmen and spectators to the effect that the journal had been tampered with at Milwaukee by overzealous Boer sympathizers, but these were scouted by the officials of the road.

RED CROSS FOR WOUNDED BOERS.

The American committee formed for the purpose of alding Red Cross work in South Africa has made arrangements, for the present at least, to make use of the Netherlands Red Cross in giving aid to the wounded Boers. The Netherland society already has nurses and physicians in the field at the seat

John V. L. Pruyn, chairman of the American committee, reports that the committee has already received many offers from doctors and nurses who are anxious to go to South Africa, but he says that no American corps will be sent unless later called for by the Netherlands society. The facilities for sending necessary supplies are better afforded by the society of Netherlands.

All money and supplies collected will be placed at the disposal of the Netherlands society. Those who wish to contribute in aid of the Boers may send their contributions to Tunis G. Bergen, treasurer of the American committee, at No. 55 Libertly-st.

erly-st.

The object of the American society is to give relief to the Boers who are wounded in the present
patilities in South Africa. The English Army has
competent hospital staff in the field, while the
Boers' service in this respect is limited.

MORE COMMENT ON CHAMBERLAIN.

TERMAN AND ENGLISH FEELING OVER THE LEICESTER SPEECH.

Berlin, Dec. 3.-The German press continue to discuss the recent speech at Leicester, Engand, of the British Secretary of State for the Colonies. The comments, on the whole, are not unfavorable. The semi-official "Hamburgischer

Mr. Chamberlain used the word "alliance" as the most apt word to portray the general good relationship between Germany and Great Brit-lin; but no secret compact exists.

The "Berliner Post" says:

England and Germany should act frankly, like business men, in seeking to come to an un-derstanding with the United States, and, if poselble, into copartnership.

London, Dec. 4 .- Mr. Chamberlain's Leicester speech continues to form the subject of extended comment here and abroad. The New-York torrespondent of "The Daily News" declares that the speech has "greatly increased the popular fislike of the Colonial Secretary in the United States," and that instead of being an aid, Mr. Chamberlain is "an almost insuperable obstacle to an Anglo-American alliance."

to temper the feeling created by Mr. Chamberhin's admitted "indiscreet enthusiasm," says:

Lord Rosebery's criticisms are perfectly justified, but it would be ungrateful to lose sight of the fact that it is due very largely to Mr. Chamberiain's personal influence that the improved state of feeling, improperly described as "allisnoe" and, perhaps, not altogether properly even as "understanding." has been brought about between Great Britain and the United States and between Great Britain and Germany. It is to ween Great Britain and Germany. It is to regretted that Mr. Chamberlain's language t itself to misconstructions, provoking acrid remarks in German and American newspapers; but in the case of America the tendency to

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VISITORS WELCOME.

METHUEN'S HARD FIGHT. union and co-operation is not likely to be seriously obstructed by an excess of sensitive apprehension at a possible meaning attachable to Mr. Chamberlain's words.

TOPICS FROM HAVANA.

HAVANA COMMERCIAL COMPANY FEARS NATIVE OUTBREAK.

Havana, Dec. 3.-Owing to the poor attendance at the meetings of the Cuban League and National party delegates, great difficulty is experienced in getting business done. Out of a possible 190 it is not often that more than eighty or ninety are present; and it has been found necessary to accept one-third of the total number as constituting a quorum.

The other provinces are waiting to see what the Havana delegates will do, and the fact that at a recent meeting it was decided that the National Assembly should have provincial representation as a unit, each province being equally represented, has caused many delegates to fear that owing to the enormous inequality of the provincial populations the National Assembly will not be accepted by President McKinley as fairly representing Cuban

The "Patria," discussing the references to Cuba in Secretary Root's report, pronounces these "very satisfactory," and says that "in dependence is safe."

The "Nuevo Pais" says:

We can see nothing in the declarations of Secretary Root that can be called new. The Americans evidently still believe that the Cubans are not fit to govern themselves, owing to their lack of education, and they still intend to educate us until we are fit for self-government. Mr. Root does not discuss the question of independence leaving it where it was on independence, leaving it where it was on January 1.

The Havana Commercial Company is placing armed guards on its plantations in the Province of Pinar del Rio, and will apply to Governor General Brooke for an infantry contingent. Mr. Merrylees, the manager, says:

The company would not go to the expense arming a number of men unless this was thought necessary for the protection of its interests. do not believe there is any immediate cause alarm, but we do consider that the spirit of dis affection is spreading, and is liable soon or late to burst into flame whenever the United States Government does or refrains from doing some thing which the Cuban leaders oppose or desire

The widow of General Antonio Maceo arrived here to-day from Santiago. She was received at the railway station by a large crowd, and was escorted to the house of General Gomez by General Lacret, General Rabi and other Cuban

MILITARY POLICE FOR SANTIAGO.

Santiago, Dec. 3.-Yesterday the municipal po transferred to the military departnent. Under command of Captain Pierce, one nundred and fifty men in new gray uniforms and hundred and fifty men in new gray uniforms and wearing feit helmets similar to those worn by the New-York police, paraded, making a fine appearance. Until now the force, owing to the jealousles of municipal politics, has been inefficient, and the Mayor and Council requested the transfer taus accomplished. Many former members failed to pass the rigid examination insisted upon by the American authorities, and the present personnel is a great improvement upon the old. Captain Pierce will require daily drills, in conformity with army regulations. This change is in line with General Leonard Wood's recommendation of a recruit drill Leonard Wood's recommendation of a recruit dri of Cubans for the Army, having in view the gradua removal of the Americans except the officers.

MARACAIBO HAS BEEN TAKEN.

PRINCIPAL SEAFORT OF VENEZUELA FALLS INTO

[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.] Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 3.-The Hernandist revolutionary forces have at last captured the city of Maracalbo, capital of the State of Zulta and the most important seaport of Venezuela. The city capitulated only after a stubborn re-sistance, the attack consuming sixteen hours of hard fighting.

VIEWS OF THE JAPANESE MINISTER.

HE DENIES THAT THERE IS A POLITICAL ALLI-ANCE BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA, AND

> SAYS THAT RELATIONS WITH RUS-SIA ARE NOT STRAINED.

Chicago, Dec. 3.-Jutaro Komura, the Japanese Minister to Washington, who is in Chicago, spoke yesterday of affairs in the Orient. In answer to a question he said:

No, there is no political alliance between Japan and China, and to assert that there is is to talk nonsense. There is a growing friendship between the two nations and governments. That is one of the direct and logical results of the war. China formerly despised Japan as a small and inconsequential State. The war taught her our true quality. China now respects us, and she has been immensely impressed with the modern methods, the Western arms and science and education which Japan has adopted. Our friendship with China is commercial and educational. One hundred and fifty Chinese youths have been sent recently by the Peking Government to our schools to learn there what are the methods which have transformed Japan.

what are the methods which had all spans.

The relations between Tokio and St. Petersburg are not in the least strained. We have no contention with Russia in Corea or elsewhere. Our rights are defined there, and there is no occasion for conflict. You see, Japan is too busy to think of war. She has her hands full with her own immense industrial development, and she has all she can do in pacific ways in aiding China to adapt herself to modern conditions. No, no; we are not thinking of war, but of developments and peaceful conquests.

The Minister expressed himself pleased with the understanding between England, the United States and Japan to secure the open door in China and to prevent the partition of the ancient empire.

PATERSON WRECK INQUEST DEFERRED.

PUT OFF UNTIL FRIDAY IN ORDER TO SECURE TESTIMONY OF THE INJURED. Paterson, N. J., Dec. 3 (Special).-The inquest to

determine the responsibility of the Lackawanna Railroad wreck will be held at the Court House on Railroad wreck will be held at the Court House on Friday evening, Coroner Vates having made that announcement this afternoon. The object of deferring the investigation until late in the week is to secure the testimony of the injured passengers at the hospital who are still suffering from the shock. It is not unlikely that the Grand Jury will investigate the disaster. Prosecutor Emley will not order the arrest of Riordan, the engineer, the information received by him thus far not warranting him in taking such a step.

All the injured persons at St. Joseph's and the General hospitals were resting comfortably this evening. The body of Thomas H. White, the seventh victim, who succumbed to his injuries, will be removed to his home in Ithaca to-day.

"The Times," in an editorial which endeavors INCREASED WAGES IN WOOLLEN MILLS. Webster, Mass., Dec. 3.-Eben S. Stevens has voluntarily posted notices in his woollen mills at Quinnebaug, Conn., announcing a general increase of 10 per cent in the wages of his employes, the new scale of prices to go into effect the present week. The increase will benefit 600 people.

ANXIOUS ABOUT LAND GRANTS.

Albany, Dec. 3 (Special).-The State Land Board will meet on Thursday. At the meeting the at-torneys for the Astoria Heat, Light and Power Company hope to obtain favorable action on the companys four applications for 16 31-100 acres of land under water in and about Astoria, Long Isl-and.

Continued from first page.

and Equipment under one head. These bueaus have to do with the construction and fit ting out of vessels; in one word, the material of the ship. It is an integral work. When a ting out of vessels; in one word, the material of the ship. It is an integral work. When a contract is made for the construction of a ship, it is made with one builder. It is not given part to a constructor of hulls, part to a steam engine manufacturer and part to an outfitting firm. Whatever various trades enter into the work are all under one head. This is the method of private ship, build, the largest of private shipyards which build the largest ships, and which are not left to the administration of three heads, between whom delicate questions of respective authority and responsibility are liable to arise, resulting in delays and too often in friction and lack of harmony of co-

Each of the above bureaus has now during Each of the above bureaus has now, during the construction of naval vessels, its separate inspectors at each yard. A consolidated bureau could, of course, be run much cheaper than three bureaus, and a great saving made by a reduction of the now three separate working forces, both cierical and mechanical, especially in our navy yards. Fewer naval officers would be needed, as there would be but one staff instead of three, so that more officers would be available for other duty. Under the present system one bureau brings its work to the point of tem one bureau brings its work to the point of readiness for the work of another, which is not always ready for it. There is necessarily a lack of that adaptation and harmony of movement which one head would secure.

If this consolidation were effected the matter f furnishing coal and other current supplies, which is now under the direction of the Bureau of Equipment, could be easily transferred the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, and such other incidental changes made as became neces

a view to an improvement in departmental or-ganization, and with the highest appreciation of the ability and dutifulness with which these of the ability and dutifulness with which these bureaus have been administered under their present heads. Efficient as they have been, however, their consolidation is recommended, because it is believed that if consolidated under the direction of any one of their present heads, or of any competent officer, that efficiency would be still greater, less expense incurred, and a better business organization would succeed. The terms of office of the chiefs of the three bureaus will all expire in a little more than a year, two of those officers then going upon the year, two of those officers then going upon the retired list, and it is due to them all, as an assurance that the change is recommended on systematic and not personal grounds, to suggest that if made it shall not go into effect until the beginning of the fiscal year after the expiration of their said terms.

The report continues:

TRANSPACIFIC CABLE SURVEY.

The increased importance of our possessions in The increased importance of our possessions in the Pacific led you to recommend to the last Congress the establishment of a Pacific cable, and the Department, in furtherance of this object, had recently had a survey made of a cable route from Honolulu to the Philippine Islands, the route from San Francisco to Honolulu having been surveyed some years ago. The Nero, which had been used as a collier during the late war, was thoroughly fitted out and equipped for deep sea work at the Mara Island Navy for deep sea work at the Mare Island Navy Yard in the early part of the present year, and sailed from Honolulu on May 6, via the Midway Islands and Guam, to a point on the east coast of the island of Luzon, where she arrived on August 1, having made \$53 soundings. The length of the route is 4,812 knots. The reports received from the preliminary line of soundings indicate that the route will prove entirely processing the control of the route will prove entirely process. indicate that the route will prove entirely prac-

It is the intention of the Department to also survey a route for a cable from the Island of Guam to Yokohama, Japan.

IMPROVEMENTS IN GUN MAKING.

During the last year sixty-three guns for the main batteries of vessels have been completed at the naval gun factory, namely, four 13-inch, four S-inch, eighteen 6-inch, twenty-two 5-inch and fifteen 4-inch; and seventeen others have been assembled and are well advanced, viz., one inch, four 8-inch, eight 6-inch and four 5-inch. Twenty-eight guns of ordinary type have been converted to rapid firing guns, viz., twenty-five 6-inch and three 4-inch.

Forgings have been ordered and are in part delivered for twenty 12-inch, fifty-one 6-inch, sixty-one 5-inch and forty-two 4-inch guns of new design, with enlarged powder chambers and greater length, and capable of developing much greater energy than the guns now in service. New and improved mounts have been designed,

affording greater facility of manipulation.

The first of the new 4-inch guns has been completed and tested, exhibiting excellent ballistic properties, and developing 78 per cent greater muzzle energy than the present 4-inch gun. The first of the new 6-inch guns has also been completed and tested, with very satisfactory results. pleted and tested, with very satisfactory results, a muzzle velocity of 2,950 foot-seconds having guns, with its mount, is well advanced. It is confidently expected that a great increase in energy over guns of the same callbre now in ser-vice will be obtained by all the new type guns.

Two 8-inch guns of nickel steel have been assembled and are well advanced. One of these is fitted with a very quick working breech mechan-

ism of novel design.

A new type of breech plug, designated as the "Welin-screw," has been adopted for all the new guns above 4 inches in calibre. Its peculiar feature is that it has a proportionately larger threaded area than the old type of plug, admitting of the use of a relatively shorter, and therefore lighter, plug than was heretofore used—a matter of considerable importance in heavy guns.

The development of the 12-inch gun has been so great that it has been designated as the heaviest gun for the latest battleships, rather than the 13-inch gun installed on previous ves-

A new type of gun, a 14-pounder of 50 cali-ire, has been designed and manufactured, and

will probably form a prominent feature in the secondary battery of new vessels.

During the year batteries and ordnance outfits have been supplied to a number of vessels, including the three former Spanisk gunboats, the Isla de Luzon, the Isla de Cuba and the Don Juan de Austria. Juan de Austria.

SUPPLIES OF SMOKELESS POWDER.

Immediately after the close of the war with Spain the purchase of brown powder was discontinued and the manufacturers were directed to turn their attention exclusively to the manufacture of smokeless powder, so far as their orders for the Navy were concerned. They have made commendable progress, and are turning out a satisfactory product in considerable quantities. It is proposed to supply all new ships with smokeless powder, and the powder for the Kearsarge, the Kentucky and the Alabama is now ready for them. The older vessels will also be supplied as rapidly as possible.

The Government powder factory at Indian Head is progressing favorably and will be completed in a few months. Unavoidable delays in obtaining materials have retarded its progress to some extent, and it is preferable to do good rather than hasty work. It is neither expected nor desired to enter into conpetition at these

nor desired to enter into competition at these works with private manufacturers, except as to quality, it being the policy of the Department to foster the commercial industry, upon which the country must largely draw its supply. UNIFORM CALIBRE FOR SMALL ARMS.

Steps were taken in December last, by the appointment of a joint board of Army, Navy and marine officers, to secure the adoption of a uniform calibre for small arms and machine guns, and of a standard and uniform small arm cartridge for the use of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. This Board, after very careful consideration of all the interests involved, recommended the adoption of calibre 30, which is consideration of all the interests involved, recommended the adoption of calibre 30, which is now used by the Army; and in furtherance of this recommendation, which is believed to be in the general interests of the services involved, the Department, in securing additional small arms and machine guns for the Navy and Marine Corps, will specify those of calibre 30, and to use the same cartridge as the Army.

STONE DOCKS RECOMMENDED.

STONE DOCKS RECOMMENDED.

In contracting for the docks at Mare Island and League Island the Department has followed the requirements of Congress as to materials, but the experience of the Department in contracting for the masonry docks has shown that they can be built of the most substantial character, with the best equipment and within a reasonable period of time, at a cost very little in excess of the wooden structures. Coupled with this record of moderate cost for permanent and safe docks of the largest size is the unfortunate experience the Department has had with practically all the timber drydocks it has constructed. In those cases in which there has been no alarming accident or failure the cost of repairs and renewals has been very great. In view of these facts the Department strongly recommends that authority be given to modify the contracts for the timber docks and build them of concrete and stone.

MILEAGE FOR OFFICERS.

Under the law as at present, officers travelling under orders from the Department, regardless of the frequency of the travel, or the distance, receive an allowance of seven cents a mile. It sometimes happens that officers are required to perform regular duty between two or more places in the same near vicinity, and to travel

MORE WARSHIPS ASKED. backward and forward at frequent, constant intervals. In such cases an officer should not receive mileage, but should be reimbursed for only the actual expense incurred. It is therefore recommended that authority be given to the Secretary of the Navy, in ordering officers to duty involving travel in such cases, to designate when actual travelling expenses only will be allowed.

The Secretary gives a table showing naval construction going on abroad, as compared with that in the United States. From this it appears that only Italy and Japan laid down less tonnage than this country in the present year, and that Italy alone had less tonnage under construction. The total tonnage under construction is: England, 531,680; France, 255,533; Germany, 148,235; Italy, 120,540; Japan, 130,000; Russia, 222,976; United States, 123,236.

Work on the design of gunboat No. 16, to re place the Michigan on the Great Lakes, has been suspended pending negotiations with Great Britain for a modification of the treaty. Secretary Long reviews also the various naval incidents of the last year. Among the other subjects treated in the report

are the plan to promote the efficiency and increase the numbers of the Naval Reserve, the advisability of establishing barracks for enlisted men, the increased use of electricity on shipboard, the value of coaling stations, the names of vessels which are listed for bounties and prize money in the Spanish war and improvements at the various navy yards and naval stations. The work of surveying the harbors in the recently acquired islands is also mentioned. The foregoing suggestion is made solely with

GOOD ROADS FOR THE STATE.

CONFERENCE CALLED BY STATE EN GINEER BOND TO MEET IN JANUARY.

EACH COUNTY INVITED TO SEND LELE-GATES-WORK SO FAR DONE UNDER THE ACTS OF LEGISLATURE.

Albany, Dec. 3 (Special).-State Engineer Bond, who is charged with the execution of the laws recently passed in regard to the improvement of the roads of the State, has issued a circular letter addressed to the Boards of Supervisors of each county, inviting them to appoint dele gates to a conference to be held in Albany early in January to adopt measures which it is hoped will advance the road improvement movement and bring about the construction of a large number of new roads in this State.

"The State Engineer issued that circular," said one of his subordinates to-day, "because he has been receiving a large number of letters expressing interest in the work which is being done by the State, counties and towns in road improvement, and making inquiries of an interesting nature in regard to it. It being far easier to see the persons who make these inquiries in this city than it would be for him to make engagements to see them here and there about the State, he has called this convention of the friends of road improvement here in Albany. The members of the Legislature will be here in January, and will be able to hear at the same time what the advocates of good roads have to say."

Doubtless the State Engineer hopes that he can persuade the Legislature to make a larger appropriation for the improvement of the roads of the State. In an address he delivered before the members of the Oneida County League for Good Roads and the Central New-York Farmers' Club at Utica on Friday he gave some interesting particulars of the work he has thus far done toward improving the roads of the State. His statement may rightfully be considered an outline of his forthcoming report to the Legislature on this subject. The State Engineer said:

The benefits to be derived from the offer mad by the State in Chapter 115 of the Good Roads law of 1898-viz.: That for every dollar which the county will spend the State will also spend are so well recognized that to-day are petitions filed with the State Engineer's department for the building of roads far beyond its means with the small amount of money thus far appropriated by the Legislature for

this purpose.

Up to the date 112 petitions have been received, covering about 530 miles, distributed as follows: Eric County, 141 miles; Orange, 141 miles; Rockland, 102 miles; Columbia, 5 miles; Schenectacy, 6 miles; Oneida, 3 miles; Onondaga, 6 miles; Delaware, 2 miles; Rensselaer, 18 miles; Orleans, 3 miles; Chemung, 5 miles; Clinton, 4 miles; Herkimer, 4 miles; Montgomery, 94 miles; Westchester, 60 miles; Albany, 3 miles; St. Lawrence, 3 miles.

3 miles: St. Lawrence, 3 miles.
Contracts have been let for the improvement of ten roads, aggregating 24.75 miles, and amounting in total cost to about \$161,890. Plans have been submitted for the improvement of three roads covering about five miles and amounting in total cost when finished to about \$44,178. These contracts will be let as soon as the Boards of Supervisors of the various counties have passed a final resolution appropriating the necessary funds and approving the plans.

The contracts already let and to be let, covering the mileage above referred to, are distributed among the following counties and will cost when completed approximately as follows: Schenectady County, \$16,517; Erie, \$29,576; Oneida, \$16,200; Columbia, \$9,992; Monroe (two roads), \$53,475; Onendaga (two roads), \$20,615;

Oneida, \$16,200; Columbia, \$9,992; Monroe (two roads), \$53,475; Onondaga (two roads), \$20,615; Rensselaer (two roads), \$15,615;; total contracts let, \$161,890; Saratoga, \$13,676; Chemung, \$18,733; Albany, \$11,759; total to be let, \$44,168; total of work let and to be let, \$206,058.

No more contracts can be let until a further appropriation is made, and it is therefore desirable that this subject should be urgently brought to the attention of your representatives in the Legislature, that it may receive the careful and generous consideration by them which its im-

generous consideration by them which its importance demands.

CAPTAIN PRICE'S LITTLE JOKE.

HOW HE "TIPPED OFF" REPORTERS ON A SAFE BLOWING IN HIS PRECINCY. The last man in the world to be suspected of

being a joker, unless one knew to the contrary, is Captain Price, of the West Thirtleth-st. police station. The stranger who gazes on his massive jaws, his much knit brows, his stubby hair and his gen-erally stern demeanor might think the Captain capable of anything, almost, but a joke-never. But the Captain does have his little fun. Whenever there is a considerable space in which the Cap-tain's name appears not in print it is wise to be on the lookout for something funny in his direction, On Saturday night the Captain called a reporter into his private office and told him he had something great to tell him.

"Don't say a word until I give you permission," he enjoined. The reporter promised on his honor. "There's going to be a big safe blown in this precinct to-morrow," the Captain whispered. got the tip, and my men will be on hand. Don't say a word." It is hardly necessary to say that the reporter swore by his ancestors to keep the secret. He had a dream of a "beat," an increase in salary and such delusions. But there are other reporters. Ine tip got out, and Captain Price was so besieged that he im-

parted a little more information, "It'll be to-morrow afternoon," he told them,
"at Fourth-ave, and Twenty-sixth-st." Then,
drawing the reporters around him closely, he whis-

"at Fourth-ave. and Twenty-sixth-st." Then, drawing the reporters around him closely, he whispered: "The office of the Consolidated Gas Company."

By two o'clock yesterday afternoon there seemed enough reporters around Fourth-ave. and Twenty-sixth-st. to organize a successful press club. They kept coming and going, but, look as they would, they could see no sign of a safe blowing.

When they were about to give up in disgust one man with eagle eyes discovered a flicker behind the closed blinds in the gas office. A few moments later a man pulled the window shade up. It seemed a strange method for burgiars, but the possibility of a new method in keeping with these latter days suggested itself to the newspaper men, and they awaited developments. There were several extra policemen on duty around the place, and this fact gave them encouragement. About three o'clock there was a deep, muffled sound which made the building jar. Smoke a moment later issued from the opening at the top of the window.

Policeman with drawn clubs kept the reporters down, despite desperate efforts on the part of several to scale the walls and single handed capture the burgiars.

The safe had been blown, but not by the thieves. On Saturday the lock had balked after twenty years of service, and the officials were unable to get a large sum of money out of the safe. An expert was sent by the Marvin Safe Company to unlock the safe, but owing to the age of the mechanism he found it necessary to use a small portion of dynamite. Captain Price was smiling last night. He left orders with the sergeant to buy all the newspapers this morning and to clip every article in which his name is mentioned.

IMPROPER APPLICATION OF SECOND

CLASS RATES.

LARGE LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT SHOWN IN MR. SMITH'S REPORT-NEEDS OF

THE NEW-YORK OFFICE

Washington, Dec. 3.-The annual report of Postnaster General Charles Emory Smith was made public to-night. Its chief feature is a plan for ongress's action to stop the abuse of second class mail privileges, which, he says, results in an annual waste of upward of \$20,000,000. The financial exhibit for the fiscal year shows total expenditure of \$101,632,161 and total receipts of \$95,021,384, the deficiency being \$2,422,747 less than last year. The Postmaster General says:

Postmaster General says:

The most urgent need of the postal service is the rectification of the enormous wrongs which have grown up in the perversion and abuse of the privilege accorded by law to second class matter. There are many improvements and advances waiting development and application; opportunities for speedier transmission and delivery; fields for broadening the scope of the mail service and bringing it closer home to the people; possibilities of reduced postage; but above and beneath and beyond all of these measures of progress, which experience and intelligence are working out, is the redemption of the special concession which Congress granted for a distinct and justifiable public object from the fungus growths and the flagrant evils that have fastened upon it. For this costly abuse, which drags on the Department and weighs down the service, trammels its power and means of effective advancement in every direction, involves a sheer wanton waste of £20,000,000 or upward a year. The postal deficit for the current year is £6,60,776. But for this wrongful application of the second class rate, instead of a deficit there would be a clear surplus of many millions. It is not now proposed to restrict the privileges of legitimate publications, or to modify the design of the law, but only to bring back its application to its original and just scope.

LOSSES TO THE GOVERNMENT.

It is believed that fully one-half of all the matter mailed as second class and paid for at the pound rate is not properly second class within the intent of the law, and ought justly to be paid for at the third class rate. This gives the enormous quantity of 178.251.812 pounds, from which the Department derives only a fraction of the revenue to which it is fairly entitled. The Department actually derived a revenue of 14.75 cents a pound for the third class matter mailed last year, and on this basis the Department would have received for this wrongly classed accord rate matter \$25,913.863, instead of \$1,785.516, which it actually received, and the postal revenues would have been increased by the handsome sum of \$24,248.347.

Mr. Smith concludes that over one-fourth of the entire volume and weight of the mails pays as second class matter when it should pay third class, and that this furnishes only one fifty-fifth part of the postal revenue and its carrying, reckoning at eight cents a pound, costs \$14,108,129, while revenue from it was \$1,763,516, thus causing a loss to the Government of over \$12,000,000.
"If there is to be a favored class," Mr. Smith

class paying properly, even penny postage, with reasonable limitations, could be applied to letters without entailing a deficit larger than that of the last few years, and possibly with none at all." The Postmaster General separates the abuses of the pound rate into three classes. In the first he places paper covered books issued under pretence of being serial publications, but which are in no wise periodicals. These publications, he says, have few or no actual subscribers, and the books, after being transported in bulk to some central locality,

are remailed many times, the Government losing

ays, "let it embrace all the people.

seven cents a pound on each shipment. The advertising "house organ" and that class of paper which styles itself a trade fournal, but which exists merely as an advertising scheme, are next This latter paper, says Mr. Smith, "does not seek circulation on its merits or through subscriptions, but is mostly given away on a pledge to advertisers that so many copies shall be dis-The 'house organ' is of the same type, but limited to being the advertising circular of a particular establishment. These prints do not conform in any just sense to the requirements of the law, but offer only a nominal and technical

QUESTION OF SAMPLE COPIES. Discussing the question of sample copies, the

Postmaster General says:

Postmaster General says:

The third abuse grows out of the privilege of sample copies. In its original and obvious intent this privilege harmonizes with the policy under which legitimate publications are granted an exceptional rate of postage. The sample copy of a regularly admitted paper or periodical counting for support upon its merits, is presumably designed to induce a new subscription by exhibiting its merits in a new quarter. But as a matter of fact in many instances the sample copy has become, not the individual exhibit, but the potential clock of a thousand times muittplied distribution without regard to subscriptions and solely as the piez and piedge for advertising. This is not the object which ine law had in view; it is not directed in any sense to the benefit of the reading public; its whole purpose is as an agency of advertising, and why should the Government furnish the means of this private advertising at a great loss to itself? The sample copy privilege is the life of the "house organ" and the spurious trade journal, and in other cases it is abused. Why should it not be restricted to its original purpose?

The simple statement of these great and palpable abuses ought to be the sufficient argument for their prompt reform. It is not sought to interfere with the just privileges of legitimate publications. Indeed, their publishers have a direct and manifest interest in the extirpation of these wrongs, which, if left uncorrected, will inevitably provoke a sweeping condemnation and warfare, involving alike those that are justify and those that are uniquistly included. They have the further inducement for joining actively in the reform that its achievement would go far to extinguish the meretricious methods of building up illegitimate publications and to restore the business to its regular and natural channels.

POSTAL WORK IN THE ISLANDS.

Regarding the new possessions the Postmaster

The presence of United States troops in the new island possessions and Cuba, in constant communication with home, constrained the establishment of mail facilities for their needs, and the practical obliteration of the old local postal system with the extinguishment of Spanish authority compelled a reconstruction of the whole service for the requirements of the native population.

Regarding rural free delivery the Postmaster General expresses the opinion that the system has already passed the experimental stage, and sums up the advantages to be derived from its establishment as follows:

Increased postal receipts, making many of the new deliveries almost immediately self-supporting. In Great Britain, where an extension of rural free delivery on a broader scale has been in progress since 1897, the number of additional letters mailed because of additional facilities afforded is estimated at 50,00,000 for the present year.

Enhancement of the value of farm lands reached by this service and better prices obtained for farm products through more direct communication with the markets and prompter information of their state.

Instate.

Improved means of travel, some hundreds of miles of country roads, especially in the Western States, having been graded specifically in order to obtain rural free delivery.

Higher educational influences, broader circulation of the means of public intelligence, and closer daily contact with the great world of activity extended to the homes of heretofore isolated rural exercises.

METHODS OF TRANSPORTING MAIL. Mr. Smith makes the following recommendation egarding pneumatic tubes and automobile deliv-

No extensions of the service for carrying the mails by pneumatic tubes were made during the last fiscal year, as the appropriation act limited such service to that now in operation. The tube service previously established in Boston, New-York, Brooklyn and Philadelphia has given entire satisfaction. Better results could be shown by developing the service in one or more of those cities, and to that end an appropriation of \$500,000 is recommended.

to that end an appropriation of \$500,000 is recommended.

A practical test is about to be made in Chicago to determine the feasibility of transporting the mails between the main office and branch postoffices by automobiles. In view of the prominence which these vehicles have recently attained in the development of the means of general transportation, it is believed that the time has come for utilizing them in connection with the carrying of the mails. If the test in Chicago shall prove favorable automobiles will doubtless be introduced in some other cities for the purpose of carrying the mails between postoffices, branch offices and raffrond stations, as it is probable that time can be saved and better results obtained from a vehicle of this kind than from the ordinary regulation or screen wagon.

THE NEW-YORK POSTOFFICE. The Postmaster General urges the needs of the

service in New-York City in the following terms:

There is an earnest and just demand for the enlargement of the postal accommodations and facilities in the City of New-York. The postofice is greatly overcrowded, and the attempt to handle all of the mail which must now pass through the central office in quarters which are inadequate results in much inconvenience and impedes an expeditions dispatch and delivery. Some provision for religions the congestion is imperative, and the suggestion is made that, in addition to the present office, there should be another structure, centrally and conveniently located, where certain classes and divisions of the mail could be received and dispatched. New-York furnishes one-twelfth of the postal revenue of the country. Its business is growing with phenomenal rapidity. Its immense and increasing interests have the strongest claim to consideration, and it is entitled to the best equipment and facilities that can be provided. In advancement of the service in New-York City in the following terms:

postal service, not merely of New-Tork, but of the whole country, which is intimately connected wit. I trust the subject will receive the favorable attention of Congress.

TIMELY PUBLICATIONS.

BOOKS SPECIALLY SUITED FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

HARPER & BROS. PRESENT A FINE LIST

COVERING A WIDE RANGE That the famous old publishing house of Harper

Bros. keeps right up to date and abreast of the times in spite of the flerce competition gendered by the growth of many younger rivals is amply proved by a glance at its holiday catalogue among the illustrated Christmas books, is "Thack of the great novelist, which was heralded by Mrs. Ritchie's biographical edition, has resulted on this Thackeray's hitherto unidentified work for 'Punch," verses, prose, drawings, etc. It consists of 354 pages, and is copiously illustrated. OLD ACQUAINTANCES RENEWED.

A book which the publishers expect will have a great sale is "Red Pottage," by Mary Cholmonde-ley, author of "The Danvers Jewels" and "Sir Charles Danvers." "Red Pottage" is a novel of society life in the England of to-day, and the plot hinges on the love of a weak man for a strong woman. There is also a carefully drawn portrait of a girl who puts her whole soul into a novel and then nearly dies from suffering when she feels that it has all gone for nothing. The book is having

ess is not confined to this side of the Atlantic Here is an example of what a London publisher when he is put to the test: When Edward Arnold found that his first edition of eight thousand copies of "Red Pottage" was leaving him at the rate of a thousand copies a day he promptly ordered ten thousand more copies to be printed, gathered, bound and delivered within six days from the date of his order. And, lest his customer, should suffer in the mean time, he warned them that, as he had sold two thousand copies of the first edition of "Red Pottage" to Mudie's Library, undue delay.

tion of the Brontë novels. Two volumes have already appeared, "Jane Eyre" and "Shirley," and the volume for December is "Villette." Each novel has an introduction by Mrs. Humphry Ward. A charming Christmas gift would be "Life and Character," by W. T. Smedley, a special holiday

collection of fifty characteristic drawings by this artist, prefaced by a photogravure portrait and a biographical sketch by Arthur Hoeber. A page of descriptive text by A. V. S. Anthony accompanies each illustration.

enchanted typewriter finds it turning out copy on its own account, and upon investigation learns that it is being used by Boswell and Xanthippe, the editors of "The Stygian Gazette." Through them

OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST. Other publications of immediate interest are Monopolies and Trusts," by Professor Richard T. economist, and "The Tragedy of Dreyfus," by G. W. Steevens, author of "With Kitchener to Khar-toum." "Wotan, Siegfried and Brunnhilde," by Anna A. Chapin, may also be considered of immediate interest, appearing as it does at the com-mencement of the grand opera season. The same

mencement of the grand opera season. The same can be said of a new and sumptuous edition of "Ben-Hur," by Lew Wallace, profusely illustrated by William Martin Johnson and from photographs, whose publication by Harper & Bros. is almost simultaneous with the dramatization of that popular work.

This house is also producing the first illustrated edition of "The Sowers," by Henry Seton Merriman. "Pictures and Rhymes," by Peter Newell, is a collection of fifty of the artist's best whimsical drawings and verses. In the field of biography and history are, among others, "Life and Letters of James D. Dana," by D. C. Gilman, with mapportraits, etc., and the fourth volume of J. F. Rhodes's "History of the United States." "Tomorrow in Cuba," by Charles M. Pepper, is a treatise on government in that island and on its people, laws and customs.

STEAMER FROM COLON IN QUARANTINE Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 3.-The Medical Department announces that the British steamer Don,

THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON and four following days, AT 1:30 O'CLOCK. PLEASE NOTE THE HOUR.

RARE AND CHOICE ART OBJECTS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, comprising

Old Chinese and Japanese Porcelains, Ivories, Enamels Lacquers, Wood Carvings, Netsukes, Inros, &c. A Number of BARYE BRONZES.

FINE BRONZES BY GREAT ARTISTS. the COUNTESS OF FONTENARY.

Miniatures on Ivory. Genuine Sevres Vases.
Rare Specimens of Staffordshire, Chelsea, Loweston,
Capo di Monte, &c.

Marqueterle Secretary Bookcase.

OLD MAHOGANY FURNITURE,

TWO 17TH CENTURY CABINETS. AN OLD SPINET MADE IN LONDON, 1770, TWO EDILANS WITH 600 ROLLS OF MUSIC. Cut Glass, Gorham Silver Plate, "Mr. Vanderblilly Houm and Collection," Japan edition, No. 307, published at \$500.

just issued. Occupying a prominent position there, eray's Unidentified Contributions to Punch." The marked increase of interest in the life and works de of the Atlantic in the dramatization of "Vanity Fair" for Mrs. Fiske and in the publication of "Becky Sharp" edition of the novel, and in London in this collection by M. H. Spielmann of

There is also a special illustrated edition of "Their Silver Wedding Journey," by William Dean Howells, a story, in the author's familiar vein, of Europe revisited after twenty-five years. Mr. and Mrs. March, two old acquaintances of Mr. How-ells's readers, to whom he introduced them in "Their Wedding Journey." rediscover the Conti-nent during a summer's travel. The romantic courtship of two young Americans furnishes & central interest to the novel, which is bound in two volumes, of about 400 pages each, and contains eighty-six full page illustrations by W. T. Smedley nd from photographs, and eighty-one vignettes in the text.

TEN THOUSAND IN SIX DAYS. Apparently all the energy in the publishing busi-

Harper & Bros. are publishing a "Haworth Edi-

MORE NEWS ABOUT HADES

Readers who have followed John Kendrick Bangs

into Hades before may be glad to learn more about

that interesting region in the author's new book, "The Enchanted Typewriter." The owner of the editors of "The Stygian Gazette." Through them he learns some important facts regarding present day conditions in Hades. The book contains ten illustrations by Peter Newell.

At a time when the attention of the whole civilized world is drawn to the Transvaal Harper & Bros. bring out "The Colossus," a novel by Morley Roberts. In his hero the author has presented a careful analysis of the character of Cecil Rhodes, and the scene of the novel is Africa.

"White Man's Africa," by Poultney Bigelow prefusely illustrated, contains minute personal accounts of President Krüger.

A tale of the Monte Cristo order is "The Princese Xenia," by H. B. Marriott Watson, with eight illustrations by T. de Thuistrup.

treatise on government in that island and on the people, laws and customs.

Harper & Bros. have brought out several fine holiday editions of standard works, also. Handsomely bound, and with both text and filustrations printed on specially made paper, are "Selections from the Poetry of Robert Herrick"; "The Quiet Life," by Andrew Marvel and others; "Old Songs" and Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer," all edited by Edwin A. Abbey.

Captain Doughty, from Colon, will be detained in quarantine, owing to an outbreak of yellow fever among the recently arrived drafts of troops at the Isthmus from the interior. No details can be obtained until the passengers have been released.

FIFTH AVE. . AUCTION ROOMS. 288 5TH AVENUE. WM. B. NORMAN, Auctioneer

A Carefully Selected Collection

Mr. GEORGE E. TEWKSBURY

A LARGE DRESDEN VASE purchased at the sale

And
By order of Executors and others,
A large assortment of

portion of which formerly belonged to The H AMUEL J. TILDEN. Chinese and Japanese Porcelains and Curios.

A SUPERB SOLID ENGLISH SILVER CENTRE-PIECE.

Made in 1851 by Barnard & Sons, London, DEVELOPING ALL. THE BEAUTIES OF WHICH SILVER IS SUSCEPTIBLE.

High Brass Mantel Clock. A pair of Carriage Lampa, once the property of the KING OF HOLLAND. Selected ORIENTAL SILK and ANTIQUE RUGS.